



Public Services

128 North Second Street • Fourth Floor Courthouse • Yakima, Washington 98901
(509) 574-2300 • 1-800-572-7354 • FAX (509) 574-2301 • www.co.yakima.wa.us

LISA H. FREUND – Director

Ken Wilkinson
Parks & Recreation Manager – City of Yakima
2301 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA 98902

RE: West Valley Community Pedestrian Bridge Project – WWRP 22-1277 D

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

The City of Yakima - Parks & Recreation Division is applying for grant funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to replace the West Valley Community Park Pedestrian Bridge over Wide Hollow Creek. The Yakima County Flood Control Zone District supports the project given the following considerations.

The current homemade bridge is inadequate in sustainably providing value to the community while withstanding flood flows. When high water events occur, the bridge gets dislodged and can hang up downstream on crack willow trees in a variety of configurations that impedes flood flows and accelerates bank erosion. This creates ongoing nuisance work in the riparian area to mobilize the bridge to its original location. The bridge is critical to connecting people to the park, especially the families that use the bridge to access the park from the neighborhoods to the north. The bridge is utilized by students walking to and from school and when the bridge gets washed out, it removes a safe and healthy option for children and families to access local public education.

A properly designed and built bridge in consideration of crossing safety, flood debris passage, natural crack willow fall, and flood resiliency would be very beneficial to the community. Replacement of the current bridge, coupled with managing adjacent crack willow will remove flood conveyance obstructions from the creek and allow for a more sustainable route to the park and adjacent school. We support the proposed bridge replacement and believe it will benefit the City of Yakima Parks and Recreation system.

Please accept this letter of support for the above project and let me know if I can be of any further assistance in helping you secure funding for this much needed project.



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Please also note that the Flood Control Zone District is very interest in providing technical support throughout the project to ensure this project includes sustainable flood risk reduction. We are willing to assist as needed and have gained valuable understanding of this area throughout the years through flood observations, planning, community engagement and hydraulic modeling.

Sincerely,

Troy Havens, PE, CFM
Water Resources Manager
Yakima County Flood Control Zone District